

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reconsidering this application.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

**Amendment to the Claims**

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention and include the limitations previously recited in dependent claim 9. Further, claims 2-6 have been amended to clarify the present invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 2-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended to correctly recite “the” instead of “he.” Claim 4 has been amended to correctly recite “articulated” instead of “aritcualted.” Claims 3-6 have been amended to correct antecedent basis and claim 9 has been cancelled by way of this reply. Further, claims 7 and 8 were assumed to be rejected to for being dependent upon rejected claims 6 and 2, respectively, both having been amended by way of this reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***German Patent No. 1108580*

Claims 1, 2, and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 1108580 (“Bacher”). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations previously recited formerly in claim 9. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Of the rejected claims, claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 recites an arrangement for fixing a windscreen wiper blade on an arm. The said blade has a through transverse pivot spindle intended for forming a pivoting connection with the said arm and has an end rod. The arrangement comprises an independent piece referred to as an adapter mounted on the said blade in which the said rod is fitted longitudinally. Further, *a web of the adapter is provided with a longitudinal opening* allowing passage of the said rod when fitted the said rod is fitted.

Bacher shows in Figures 1-4 an arm 1 pivotally coupled to a wiper blade 3-7 using a pivot spindle. Specifically, the arm 1 has an end rod 11 received longitudinally into the adapter 2, in which the adapter 2 is coupled to the wiper blade 3-7. However, as required by independent claim 1, the adapter must include *a web that is provided with a longitudinal opening* to allow passage of the rod when fitted. As shown in Figure 2 and discussed in lines 12-15 on page 5 of the present application, the web 6D has a longitudinal opening 15 to allow the rod to slip into the adapter 6. The end of the rod of the arm 2 may be inclined upwards through the longitudinal opening 15, shown particularly in Figure 5, to allow easy entry of the rod into the adapter 6. Bacher neither shows nor suggests such a web with a longitudinal opening in the adapter, much less the use of the longitudinal opening to allow passage of the rod into the adapter, as required by claim 1.

In view of the above, Bacher fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Bacher. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully traversed.

U.S. Patent No. 3,831,222

Claims 1, 2, and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,831,222 (“Kushida”). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations previously recited formerly in claim 9. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kushida shows in Figures 2, 3, and 8 a coupling means 4 to rotationally connect an arm 1 to a pressure unit 3 and a blade unit 2. The coupling means 4 is comprised of a housing 10, an upper resilient member 30, and a lower resilient member 40. Specifically shown in Figure 8, the arm 1 is inserted into the coupling means 4 between the upper resilient member 30 and the lower resilient member 40. However, similar to Bacher, independent claim 1 requires that the adapter, most closely resembled by the coupling means 4 in Kushida, must include *a web that is provided with a longitudinal opening* to allow passage of the rod when fitted. As mentioned above, the longitudinal opening of the present invention allows the end of the rod to be inclined upwards when introduced into the adapter. Kushida, though, neither shows nor suggests having a web with a longitudinal opening, as required by claim 1, or any opening resembling a longitudinal opening.

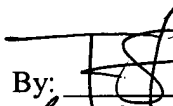
In view of the above, Kushida fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Kushida. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully traversed.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102/015001).

Dated: May 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By:  #45,079  
Jonathan P. Osha THOMAS SCHERER  
Registration No.: 33,986  
Michael E. Leman  
Registration No.: 56,864  
OSHA · LIANG LLP  
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800  
Houston, Texas 77010  
(713) 228-8600  
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant